

Waterton Lakes



*Joseph E. Dwyer, Jr.
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**NATIONAL PARK
CANADA**

Saturday



CANADIAN SECTION • WATERTON-
GLACIER INTERNATIONAL PEACE PARK

FOREWORD

The National Parks of Canada are areas of natural beauty and special interest that have been "dedicated to the people of Canada for their benefit, education, and enjoyment". Established primarily for the preservation of the unspoiled natural landscape and for the protection of the native wildlife, they are to be "maintained and made use of so as to leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

The discovery of mineral hot springs, bubbling from the slopes of Sulphur Mountain, by engineers exploring the route for Canada's first transcontinental railway, led to the establishment of Canada's first national park. From this small area of ten square miles at Banff, Alberta, set apart in 1885, the national parks system has been extended until it embraces 28 separate areas totalling more than 29,000 square miles.

Although a few parks have been devoted chiefly to the conservation of certain species of big game animals once threatened with extinction, some contain sites memorable in the early history of Canada. Others have been developed so that park visitors may more conveniently view the magnificent scenery and relax in the enjoyment of the inspirational and peaceful environment. From the sea-girt hills on the Atlantic Coast across the rivers and lakes of Central Canada to the alpine vistas of the Rockies and Selkirks, these national playgrounds provide ideal areas for nature study and for recreation.

It is the responsibility of the National Parks Branch of the Department of Resources and Development to administer these natural areas for the enjoyment of Canada's present and future generations. By progressive stages the parks have been made more easily accessible, wildlife scientifically managed, public services provided, and accommodation and recreational facilities expanded. A staff of experienced wardens keeps constant vigilance throughout these park areas to ensure the protection of the flora and fauna, as well as the safety and convenience of park visitors. Conservation of the forests, the flowers, and the natural wildlife is their chief concern, and the co-operation of all visitors in this important work is greatly appreciated.

In marking, preserving, and restoring sites of national historic importance the National Parks Branch is advised by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, an honorary body of recognized historians representing various parts of the country. From the Fortress of Louisbourg in Nova Scotia to Fort Battleford in Saskatchewan, eleven such sites are administered as National Historic Parks, and many other places of historical importance have been suitably commemorated.

The National Parks of Canada are part of a great national heritage, and under careful administration will continue as a perpetual asset—undiminished by use—for all future generations.

Published Under the Authority of
The Honourable Robert H. Winters,
Minister of Resources and Development

WATERTON LAKES NATIONAL PARK

ALBERTA

Location and Description

Waterton Lakes National Park, situated in the extreme southwest corner of the Province of Alberta, was set apart in 1895. It covers an area of 204 square miles along the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains immediately north of the International Boundary. It is one of the most colourful and charming of Canada's mountain playgrounds. Its mountains rise almost abruptly from the plains; their remarkable colouring of purple, green, and gold give to the peaks a warm and brilliant tone.

In 1932, through legislation enacted by Canada and the United States, Waterton Lakes and Glacier National Parks were proclaimed the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park.

Waterton Lakes Park headquarters is located at Waterton Park townsite. In the business section of this townsite are to be found the customary services of a modern community. A motion picture theatre and a dance pavilion are operated throughout the summer season. The Post Office is open daily except Sunday. Long distance telephone and telegraph services are available in the townsite.

How to Reach the Park

Waterton Lakes National Park is reached by the Provincial Highway system of Alberta, which connects with the park highways. From the east, approach may be made from Medicine Hat via Lethbridge and Fort Macleod to Pincher Creek (town) and from there south to the park. An alternative route from Lethbridge is through Cardston. From British Columbia on the west, approach may be made via Crowsnest Pass and Pincher. From the north, a hard-surfaced route may be followed from Edmonton to Calgary and Fort Macleod, and from there to the park, via Pincher. The park is also accessible via the Canadian Pacific Railway to Pincher or Cardston, and by a convenient bus service from these points. Buses leave Lethbridge for the park twice daily in summer, one at 12 noon by way of Cardston and one at 3 p.m. by way of Pincher Creek. The trip takes approximately three hours. A station bus operates between Pincher Station and Pincher Creek for the convenience of those travelling by train.

The most direct approach to Waterton Lakes National Park from the United States is over the Chief Mountain International Highway from Glacier National Park. The Glacier Park Transport Company operates a frequent service over this route. This highway also forms a link in the new hard-surfaced route between Glacier National Park and Banff National Park.

Visitors travelling by air are served by the Trans-Canada Airlines and the Western Airlines which make scheduled stops at Lethbridge.



GENERAL INFORMATION

Registration and Motor Licences

All motorists entering Waterton Lakes National Park must register and obtain transient motor licences. Licences are issued for motor vehicles not used for commercial purposes on the following basis:

- (1) Single trip licence: Automobile, 25 cents; auto with trailer attached, 50 cents.
- (2) Licence good for entire season, which is also honoured in Elk Island, Prince Albert, Riding Mountain, and Point Pelee National Parks: Automobile, \$1; auto with trailer attached, \$2.
- (3) Special licence for entire season, which is honoured in all the National Parks of Canada: Automobile, \$2; auto with trailer attached, \$3.

Special licences may be obtained for motor vehicles used for commercial purposes.

The Park Registration Office is situated at the junction of the Pincher, Cardston, and Chief Mountain International Highways, about 5½ miles north of Waterton Park townsite.

Park Administration

A resident superintendent is in charge of the administration of Waterton Lakes National Park. The Administration Building, located in Waterton Park townsite, contains the office of the Park Superintendent, and the Parks Information Bureau. The Bureau is open daily, and information concerning accommodation, travel, recreation, and places of interest may be obtained, as well as literature and detailed maps of the parks. The park regulations are enforced by the park warden service, assisted by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Wildlife Protection

The National Parks Act requires that all parks shall be maintained and made use of so as to leave them unimpaired for the use of future generations. Therefore, all wildlife within park boundaries is rigidly protected, and hunting and the possession of unsealed firearms are strictly prohibited. As the parks are game sanctuaries, visitors must not molest any wild animals or birds and their nests. Dogs or cats are not allowed in any national park except under special permission and licence.





The Buffalo Herd

An exhibition herd of plains buffalo occupies a fenced area on the northern boundary of the park, just west of the highway to Pincher Creek. This buffalo range has clumps of poplar trees which provide shelter for the buffalo, and a good year-round water supply from the Indian Springs. There are also several large ponds within the enclosure.

Accommodation

Accommodation in the park is provided by hotels, chalets, lodges and bungalow cabins. Most of the accommodation is located within the townsite, but there are also bungalow cabin establishments at Cameron Lake and Waterton River Bridge. The pamphlet entitled *Accommodation in Canada's National Parks* contains up-to-date information on these accommodations including the name, location, capacity, rates and plan. Copies may be obtained from the Parks Information Bureau or from the Canadian Government Travel Bureau, Ottawa.

Unless visitors are carrying their own camping equipment, or have cabin trailers, it is advisable to arrange accommodation in advance.

Camping

Camping has always been popular in the Waterton Lakes area. Since it became a national park, many of the most suitable camp-sites have been improved. Some have been equipped with electric light, running water, kitchen and community shelters, tables, stoves, fuel and sanitary facilities. Most of these camping sites are within reasonable distance of supplies.

The main camp-ground in the park is located in the southern part of Waterton Park townsite and covers an area of about 35 acres. It is traversed by Cameron Creek and is part of the alluvial "fan" upon which the townsite is laid out. A gravel subsoil ensures good drainage and there are sufficient trees to provide shelter for tents. The area is equipped with kitchen and community shelters and has electrical outlets for the convenience of those bringing cabin trailers. Fresh milk is delivered daily. A caretaker and a matron are on hand during the summer season.



Camp-grounds with kitchen shelters are also located at Alderson, Bertha, Cameron, Crandell, and Crypt Lakes, and at Red Rock Canyon. At Cameron Lake and Red Rock Canyon, caretakers are in attendance during July and August.

Camping in the vicinity of park highways is permitted only at places designated for that purpose. Camping fees are as follows: One day, 50 cents; two days, \$1; over two days and not exceeding one week, \$1.50. Trailers—one day, 75 cents; two days, \$1.50; over two days and not exceeding one week, \$2.00.

Permits may be obtained from the camp attendants or at the office of the Park Superintendent.

Facilities are provided in the park for youth camping under the auspices of the Boy Scouts, Y.M.C.A., and church organizations.

Recreation

Bathing—The beach at Lake Linner, a short distance north of the townsite, is ideal for bathing and swimming. Dressing-rooms have been built for the convenience of visitors, and a life-guard who also acts as caretaker at the beach is in attendance from June to September.

Boating—Boating on Upper Waterton Lake is a favorite pastime. Power and rowboats may be hired near the dock at Waterton Park townsite. The power-boat "International" makes trips three times daily from Waterton Park townsite up the lake to Goathaunt Landing in Glacier National Park, at a return fare of \$1.50. Launches are also operated by private enterprise.

Fishing—Consistent use of modern methods, including the operation of the Waterton Lakes Fish Hatchery, has assured good angling in many of the lakes and streams in the park. At the Parks Information Bureau in Waterton Park townsite visitors can obtain the publication entitled *Anglers Guide to Canada's Mountain National Parks*, which contains up-to-date information about the most popular fishing waters in the park and a list of the species to be caught.

A fishing licence is required for all mountain national parks, except Glacier and Mount Revelstoke. The co-operation of anglers in completing creel census cards is greatly appreciated.

As special fishing regulations are in force from time to time, visitors are requested to consult park officers regarding open waters, catch limits, and the procuring of fishing licences.

Golf—The golf course operated by the National Parks Branch is situated on the rolling slopes at the base of Mount Crandell, and has a fine scenic setting. It is an 18-hole course and has a small but attractive club-house which is open to visitors.

The green fee is 75 cents for a round of nine holes or \$1 for eighteen holes (continuous) with comparable rates for daily, weekly, monthly, and seasonal periods.

Hiking and Climbing—Several well-marked trails in the vicinity of Waterton Park townsite offer fine outings on foot. These lead to Lake Linnet, half a mile from the townsite; Golf Links, two miles; and Bear's Hump (Mount Crandell), one mile. Peaks in the vicinity which may be climbed include Mount Crandell, 7,812 feet; Bertha Peak, 7,613 feet; Vimy Peak, 7,825 feet; Sofa Mountain, 8,266 feet.

Motoring—Nearly 50 miles of all-weather highways in the park provide delightful drives for visitors. Interesting motor trips might include visits to Glacier National Park via the Chief Mountain International Highway; Cameron Lake via Akamina Road along the valley of Cameron Creek; Red Rock Canyon, reached by following the park highway 2½ miles from Waterton Park townsite to Blakiston Brook bridge, turning left, and following Blakiston Brook (Pass Creek) Valley; and the Waterton Lakes Fish Hatchery situated on Pincher Highway, half a mile north of the Park Registration Office.

Cameron Falls, which is at the edge of the Park townsite and which is one of the finest cascades in the park, is reached by Cameron Falls Drive. A number of fish-rearing ponds, surrounded by beautiful gardens, are located near the Falls.

Motorists travelling northward from Glacier National Park over the Chief Mountain International Highway pass through the picturesque valley of the Belly River. From this highway many trails lead through the eastern portion of Waterton Lakes Park into peaceful solitudes of forest and open foothills where only the wild creatures break the stillness.

Playing Fields—A large open area in the centre of the townsite is used for baseball and other summer sports. A playground for children is also available nearby. It is equipped with chutes, swings, and other facilities for children's enjoyment; there is also a wading pool for tots.

Tennis—Tennis courts owned and operated by the National Parks Branch are available free of charge. They are situated near the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Barracks in Waterton Park townsite.





Trail Riding

In the development of Waterton Lakes National Park much thought has been given to the preservation of the landscape in its natural state. To make this scenery more accessible, roads and trails had to be built and these are being extended from year to year. Developments of this nature have been carried out with as little disturbance as possible to the scenery, wildlife habitats, and natural phenomena of the area.

Although many of the park's beauty spots can be viewed from either the highways or the water routes, one has to take to the trails to reach some of the more remote areas. Many places of exceptional scenic interest are within a day's ride of Waterton Park townsite or the park highways, and plenty of saddle-ponies are available for the use of visitors.

More than 160 miles of wide trails are open to visitors who desire to ride. Saddle-horses may be hired from local outfitters. Hitch-racks are located on the flat in the townsite. Following are a few of the most popular shorter rides, with the distance one way:

Bertha Lake, 5 miles; Carthew Lakes, 7 miles; International Boundary (Lake Shore), 5 miles; Goathaunt Camp (Glacier Park), 9 miles; Cameron Lake (Akamina Highway), 10 miles; Crypt Lake (from Hell Roaring Cabin), 5 miles; Red Rock Canyon, 11½ miles.

Another popular ride takes the sightseer over the trail to Bertha Lake, using Waterton Park townsite as a starting point. The trail zig-zags up the side of Mount Alderson past several waterfalls and then circles the lake. The waters of this lake are a vivid emerald shade and combine with the darker green of the forests and the red-streaked slopes of the surrounding peaks to form a striking picture.

A somewhat longer trip by trail up Blakiston Brook and its tributaries, Bauerman Brook and Lone Brook, will provide a delightful experience long to be remembered. The trail winds around Lost Lake, Sage Pass, Twin Lakes, and over South Kootenay Pass. From ideal vantage points one may gaze down into alpine valleys carved by ancient glaciers and ringed by multi-coloured mountains whose slopes are dotted with lovely lakes and tarns. Here the nature lover may study the flora and fauna to his heart's content and the photographer secure some rare scenic gems and wildlife subjects for his snapshot album. The area lends itself admirably to colour photography. There is a good highway up the valley of Blakiston Brook as far as Red Rock Canyon, where the trails to the west boundary of the park begin. This boundary, extending along the summit of the Canadian Rockies, is also the boundary between the Provinces of Alberta and British Columbia.

One of the most interesting trail trips in the park is from Waterton Park townsite to Cameron Lake by way of Alderson and Carthew Lakes. From Cameron Lake a trail winds westward through Akamina Brook, and south to Wall Lake in British Columbia.

Trails leading to wilderness areas wind northward from the Registration Office to Yarrow Creek at the extreme northern boundary of the park; and southward from the Registration Office to Vimy Peak and Vimy Ridge. By using Waterton Park townsite as a starting point, sightseeing trips by trail might include a ride along the east side of Upper Waterton Lake to Hell Roaring Canyon. On the west side of Upper Waterton Lake a trail runs southward to Goathaunt Camp at the head of the lake in Glacier National Park, thus affording opportunities to view some of the magnificent alpine scenery in the southern section of the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park. A branch of this trail running westward in Glacier National Park crosses the International Boundary and winds northward to Carthew and Alderson Lakes and westward to Cameron Lake, where it joins the Akamina Highway.

Fauna and Flora

Animals and Birds—Wildlife is one of the main attractions of the park. Among the species of big mammals which may be seen are mule and white-tailed deer, grizzly and black bear, Rocky Mountain sheep, Rocky Mountain goat, elk and moose. The whistler or hoary marmot, badger, porcupine, cougar, beaver, and several species of squirrel are also common. Bird life is abundant. The booklet entitled *Birds of Canada's Mountain Parks* is obtainable at the Parks Information Bureau — price, one dollar.

Trees and Flowers—The park contains many species which may interest the botanist and nature lover, for within this area the prairie flora and mountain flora meet. Among the species of trees found are the lodgepole pine, Douglas fir, balsam fir, Engelmann spruce, western white spruce, aspen, cottonwood, dwarf maple, and Lyall's or alpine larch. Shrubs include the diamond willow, saskatoon, elder, wild currant and blueberry.

Wild flowers are found in the valleys and along the mountain slopes in large numbers. Among the best known varieties are the arnica, prairie rose, brown-eyed Susan, aster, Indian paint brush, larkspur, wild geranium, pasque flower, purple wind-flower, hellebore, yellow columbine, avalanche lily, saxifrage, heather, and Jacob's ladder. Balsamroot and bear grass are among species also found in Waterton Lakes National Park. Visitors are requested to protect the trees and wild flowers and help keep the park beautiful.



Geology

Waterton Lakes National Park is unique with respect to its superb glacial sculpturing. It is one of the regions in the Canadian Rockies where the work of former glaciers may be observed to advantage. The booklet entitled *Geology of the National Parks of Canada in the Rockies and Selkirks* is obtainable at the Parks Information Bureau — price fifty cents.

Fire Prevention

Visitors are urged to co-operate with park officers in the prevention of fires. Smoking materials and camp-fires should be completely extinguished. Camp-fires should be kindled only at places provided for the purpose. Persons using the park trails unaccompanied by a licensed guide should acquaint themselves with the park regulations and secure particulars concerning suitable camp-sites and other related information. Parties making extended trips into park areas, which involve camping out overnight, must register with a park warden, or at the superintendent's office.

Any fire observed by a park visitor should be extinguished if possible. Fires which cannot be put out promptly should be reported to the nearest park officer. A fire in a national park may cause damage which cannot be repaired in a century.

Films

Motion picture films, 16 mm., mostly in colour with sound, depicting National Parks of Canada are available through various distribution outlets in Canada and the United States.

Full information can be obtained from all regional offices of the National Film Board in Canada, and from the Canadian Travel Film Libraries at:

400 West Madison Avenue, CHICAGO, Ill., and

1270 Avenue of the Americas, NEW YORK CITY, N.Y., U.S.A.

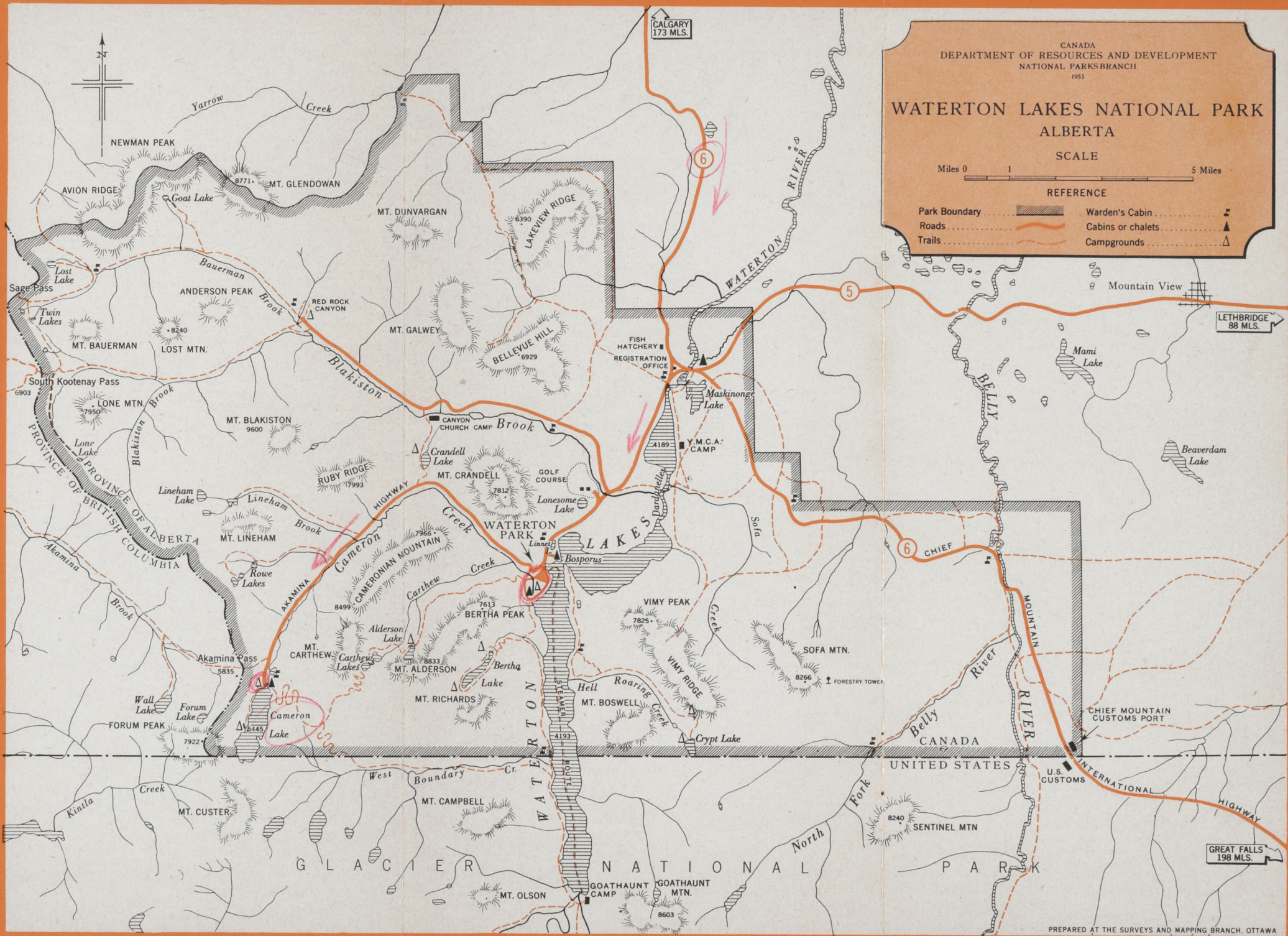
Catalogues of the latest films are available at the Canadian Government Travel Bureau, Ottawa.



DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT

National Parks Branch

OTTAWA, CANADA



CANADA
DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT
NATIONAL PARKS BRANCH
1953

WATERTON LAKES NATIONAL PARK ALBERTA

SCALE
Miles 0 1 5 Miles

REFERENCE

Park Boundary	Warden's Cabin
Roads	Cabins or chalets
Trails	Campgrounds

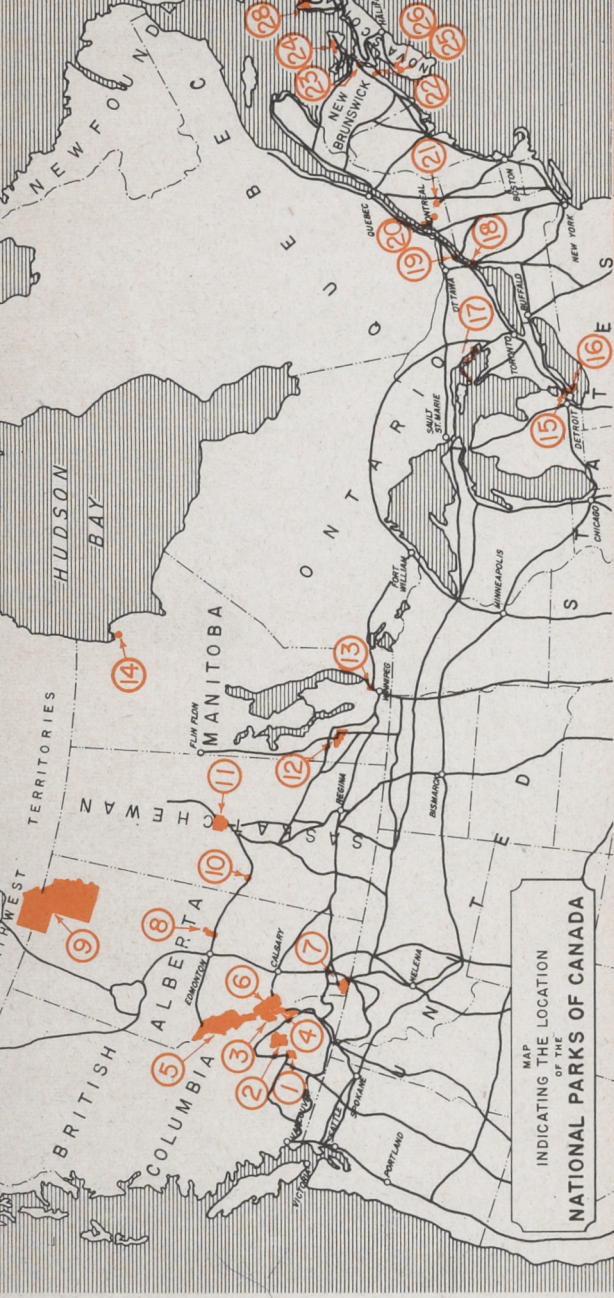


Entering Canada by the Chief Mountain International Highway from Glacier National Park, Montana.

Key to map of

National Parks

1. Mount Revelstoke
2. Glacier
3. Yoho
4. Kootenay
5. Jasper
6. Banff
7. Waterton Lakes
8. Elk Island
9. Wood Buffalo
10. Fort Battleford
11. Prince Albert
12. Riding Mountain
13. Lower Fort Garry
14. Prince of Wales's Fort
15. Fort Malden
16. Point Pelee
17. Georgian Bay Islands
18. St. Lawrence Islands
19. Fort Wellington
20. Fort Chambly
21. Fort Lennox
22. Fundy
23. Fort Beauséjour
24. Prince Edward Island
25. Port Royal
26. Fort Anne
27. Fortress of Louisbourg
28. Cape Breton Highlands



Write for information to:

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT TRAVEL BUREAU

DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT

OTTAWA, CANADA